

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

United States of America

v.

Kevin Perez, *et. al.*,

Defendants.

Protective Order

23 Cr. 99 (LJL)

Upon the application of the United States of America, with the consent of the undersigned counsel, and the defendants having requested discovery under Fed. R. Crim. P. 16, the Court hereby finds and orders as follows:

1. **Disclosure Material.** The Government has made and will make disclosure to the defendant(s) of documents, objects and information, including electronically stored information (“ESI”), pursuant to Federal Rule of Criminal Procedure 16, 18 U.S.C. §3500, and the Government’s general obligation to produce exculpatory and impeachment material in criminal cases, all of which will be referred to herein as “disclosure material.” The Government’s disclosure material may include material that (i) affects the privacy and confidentiality of individuals and entities; (ii) would impede, if prematurely disclosed, the Government’s ongoing investigation of uncharged individuals; (iii) would risk prejudicial pretrial publicity if publicly disseminated; and (iv) that is not authorized to be disclosed to the public or disclosed beyond that which is necessary for the defense of this criminal case.

2. **Sensitive Disclosure Material.** Certain of the Government’s disclosure material, referred to herein as “sensitive disclosure material,” contains information that identifies, or could lead to the identification of, witnesses who may be subject to intimidation or obstruction, and whose lives, persons, and property, as well as the lives, persons and property of loved ones, will

Based upon the information and the
Government's Request

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be subject to risk of harm absent the protective considerations set forth herein. Disclosure Material produced by the Government to the defendant or his counsel that are designated in whole or in part as “Sensitive” by the Government shall include a Bates or other label stating “Sensitive,” shall be deemed “Sensitive Material.” The Government’s designation of material as sensitive disclosure material will be controlling absent contrary order of the Court.

NOW, THEREFORE, FOR GOOD CAUSE SHOWN, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED:

1. Disclosure material shall not be disclosed by the defendant or defense counsel, including any successor counsel (“the defense”) other than as set forth herein, and shall be used by the defense solely for purposes of defending this action. The defense shall not post any disclosure material on any Internet site or network site to which persons other than the parties hereto have access, and shall not disclose any disclosure material to the media or any third party except as set forth below.

2. Disclosure material that is not sensitive disclosure material may be disclosed by counsel who may provide copies to:

- (a) the defendant;
- (b) Personnel for whose conduct counsel is responsible, *i.e.*, personnel employed by or retained by counsel, as needed for purposes of defending this action;
- (c) Prospective witnesses for purposes of defending this action.

3. Sensitive disclosure material shall be disclosed by counsel only as follows:

- (a) the defendant, who may review such discovery but counsel must retain possession of Sensitive disclosure material at all times;

(b) Personnel for whose conduct counsel is responsible, *i.e.*, personnel employed by or retained by counsel, as needed for purposes of defending this action;

4. The Government may authorize, in writing, disclosure of disclosure material beyond that otherwise permitted by this Order without further Order of this Court.

5. This Order does not prevent the disclosure of any disclosure material in any hearing or trial held in this action, or to any judge or magistrate judge, for purposes of this action. However, sensitive disclosure material pertinent to any motion before the Court should initially be filed under seal, absent consent of the Government or Order of the Court. All filings should comply with the privacy protection provisions of Fed. R. Crim. P. 49.1.

6. The Government has advised that information that may be subject to disclosure in this case may be contained within ESI that the Government has seized, pursuant to warrants issued during the course of the investigation, from various cell phones, other devices and storage media, and social media accounts. This ESI was seized from Kevin Perez, Nicholas Johnson, and others. Upon consent of all counsel, the Government is authorized to disclose to counsel for the defendants, for use solely as permitted herein, the entirety of such seized ESI as the Government believes may contain disclosure material (“the seized ESI disclosure material”). The defendant, defense counsel, and personnel for whose conduct counsel is responsible, *i.e.*, personnel employed by or retained by counsel, may review the seized ESI disclosure material to identify items pertinent to the defense. They shall not further disseminate or disclose any portion of the seized ESI disclosure material except as otherwise set forth under this Order.

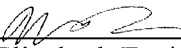
7. Except for disclosure material that has been made part of the record of this case, the defense shall return to the Government or securely destroy or delete all disclosure material, including the seized ESI disclosure material, within 30 days of the expiration of the period for direct appeal from any verdict in the above-captioned case; the period of direct appeal from any order dismissing any of the charges in the above-captioned case; or the granting of any motion made on behalf of the Government dismissing any charges in the above-captioned case, whichever date is latest. If disclosure material is provided to any prospective witnesses, counsel shall make reasonable efforts to seek the return or destruction of such materials.

8. This Order places no restriction on a defendant's use or disclosure of ESI that originally belonged to the defendant.

Retention of Jurisdiction

9. The provisions of this order shall not terminate at the conclusion of this criminal prosecution and the Court will retain jurisdiction to enforce this Order following termination of the case.

AGREED AND CONSENTED TO:

DAMIAN WILLIAMS
United States Attorney
by: 
Elizabeth Espinosa/James Ligtenberg/Ni Qian
Assistant United States Attorneys

Date: 3/1/2023

Jeffrey Lichtman, Esq.,
Counsel for Kevin Perez

Date: _____

Jacobs Kaplan, Esq.,
Counsel for Devon Mason

Date: _____

David Bertan, Esq.
Counsel for Nicholas Johnson

Date: _____

Stephen Turano, Esq.
Counsel for Jossi Castro


Date: _____

Andrew Patel, Esq.
Counsel for Sean Smith

Date: _____

SO ORDERED:

Dated: New York, New York
March 3, 2023



THE HONORABLE LEWIS J. LIMAN
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE